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The main conclusions of the author are tersely summarized in the following quotations:

"The inquiry has shown a movement whose doctrine is professedly Marxian and at most points actually so. The explanation of crises by a special overproduction theory has been largely superseded, the expectation of catastrophe materially modified, and the existence of surplus value based more and more upon induction from the facts of industry than upon the Marxian labor theory. The economic interpretation of history, however, and preeminently the class struggle doctrine, constitute the foundation of Socialist teaching in the United States." . . . "The tendency of original Marxian thought in America, in any case, is distinctly away from the discussion of theory, Revisionist or the contrary. Socialism, like religion, shares at present the trend of investigation and education toward the concrete and the utilitarian, rather than to the abstract, and the United States has entered upon Socialist activity at a state when the issue is too vital to give free play to the spirit of pure philosophy."

As a political party, American Socialism is pictured as possessing a definite organization characterized by "discipline, extreme democracy, and internationalism." With the exception of the non-affiliated opportunists, and the Socialist Labor Party, the party is a united body, though there are important internal differences in policy, shading from the constructionists on the right to the revolutionists on the left. In such important points as allegiance to the Marxian philosophy in general, acceptance of the discipline of the Socialist Party, and assent, with the exception of certain immediate demands to the national platform, the Socialists of the United States are in mutual accord.

The study fills a long felt need in bringing together in small compass up-to-date, impartial information about a movement which has ceased being of interest to the Socialist alone.

FRANK D. WATSON.

New York School of Philanthropy.

Huntington, E. *Palestine and its Transformation.* Pp. xvii, 443. Price, \$2.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1911.

The main theme of this book is the relation of the land surface and the climate of Palestine to the people, at different times in the history of the region. While the character of the land surface has been changed but little since earliest historic times, the author believes that the climate has changed greatly. Progressive dessication has made Palestine of the present quite unlike Palestine of the ancient world. This is the transformation.

In elaborating this idea of climatic change, the author describes the geographic features of the different natural divisions of Palestine, as they were in ancient times and as they are now. In so doing sharp contrasts are drawn between such sections as the land of the Phenicians and the land of the Jews, Judea and the land of the Moabites, Samaria and Galilee. The intimate relation of the character of the country to the life of the people is demonstrated beyond doubt; thus the seclusion of Judea, sheltering its

people among the low hills of the plateau, produced a type of people entirely different from those in the open, low plains of Sharon and along the Phœnician coast. The positive character of the Jew and the lack of positive characteristics among the Philistines are ascribed to these differences of surroundings.

Following the chapters which discuss the effect of the country on the people of Biblical days, the author devotes several concluding chapters to evidences of permanent changes of the climate, in respect to amount of rainfall. The climate of ancient Palestine is described, and evidences that it has changed are found in fluctuations of the level of the Dead Sea; in the ruins of ancient towns where water does not now exist; in the signs of former extensive cultivation, where naked rock now forms much of the surface. Some of these things, as the naked rock, where vineyards and olive groves once stood, have been ascribed to unwise deforestation. But the author is not inclined to accept that view. A change from moist conditions to aridity has been, he believes, a more potent factor. Reading the book certainly inclines one to accept the author's interpretation, so vividly and so convincingly are the transformations pictured.

Not every reader will be willing to go as far as the author does in accounting for human conditions and traits on the physical basis. Some question may be raised about the reliability of traditional accounts of Palestine, for use as scientific evidence. Objection may be made to some interpolated explanations, as the effect of mountains on rainfall (p. 86), and the rather profitless comparison of Palestine and California. But no one can deny that the book is charmingly written outside these parts, and that it makes most real the setting of many Biblical stories, formerly only half appreciated.

As an example of geographic investigation, thoroughly done and well written, few recent books contain so much of human interest.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Chicago.

Hutchinson, Woods. *We and Our Children.* Pp. x, 371. Price, \$1.20. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1911.

Of the great variety of readers interested in any serious discussion of children, some will approve of "We and Our Children," because it is modern, biological and essentially iconoclastic; others will admire the breezy, hearty way in which the author disposes of some of the "problems" which worry over-serious minds; still others will like the book for the many opportunities it offers them to differ with the writer. All will be interested because it is suggestive, stimulating and entertaining. Biological facts are used in a familiar, if not always exact way, the evolution of man in whole and in parts is assumed, and the outlook is forward to the stronger and better race. The book is really a popular discussion of eugenics.

Each page has a challenge, an attack, or an annihilation of some cherished tradition. "Piecing between meals," a custom no grown-up ever approves, in children, is endorsed. "A child's stomach must be stretched at